



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR.
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986

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CONTACT: KIM PETTRY
304-558-2021

ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL MCGRAW AWARDS FUNDING TO TRI-COUNTY VISITATION AND EXCHANGE CENTER FROM THE PHARMA, INC. SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Attorney General Darrell McGraw today announced the distribution of \$25,000 to the Tri County Visitation and Exchange Center, Weston, West Virginia for the operation of its supervised child visitation center. This funding comes from the latest installment in Attorney General McGraw's \$10,000,000 settlement with Purdue Pharma, Inc. over the addictive qualities of the drug Oxycontin.

The Tri-County Visitation and Exchange Center is a community based domestic violence prevention program serving Lewis, Upshur and Braxton Counties. The Center provides supervised visitation between parents and children and monitors the exchange of children between estranged parents. This is part of a systematic approach to ending physical, emotional and sexual abuse in families. In some instances, child visitation can be difficult for children and parents because of domestic violence or other factors which make the break up of a family particularly volatile. The Center encourages and supports healthy family life based on mutual respect and support for all family members.

"A safe and healthy relationship with family members is the foundation of well being for a child," McGraw stated. "Often families in extreme crisis have one or more parent with substance abuse problems. Without help, the children of such families can repeat the behavior themselves. That is why we fund such programs with the proceeds of the Oxycontin settlement."

Purdue Pharma agreed to pay West Virginia \$10 million over four years and the award to the Tri-County Center came from the second installment of \$2.5 million.

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